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ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

Report of the Second Committee (Part VI)*

Rapporteur: Mr. Ahmed Yousif MOHAMED (Sudan)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on item 89 (see A/49/729, para. 3). Action to be taken on sub-item (e) was considered at the 29th and 33rd meetings, on 23 November and 9 December 1994. An account of the Committee's consideration on the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/49/SR.29 and 33).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.2/49/L.37 AND Rev.1

2. At the 29th meeting, on 23 November, the representative of Algeria, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and Australia, China, Japan and New Zealand, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" (A/C.2/49/L.37), which read:

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/49/729 and addenda.

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling the report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and in particular chapter 17, section G, of Agenda 21, 1/ relating to the sustainable development of small island developing States,

"Recalling also its resolution 47/186 of 22 December 1992 on specific measures in favour of island developing countries,

"Recalling in particular its resolutions 47/189 of 22 December 1992 and 48/193 of 21 December 1993,

"Reaffirming that, because the development options of small island developing States are limited, there are special challenges to devising and implementing sustainable development plans, and that those States will be constrained in meeting those challenges without the cooperation of the international community,

"Having considered the report of the first Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, which was held in Barbados from 25 April to 6 May 1994, including a high-level segment on 5 and 6 May, 2/

"Expressing its satisfaction that the Conference and its Preparatory Committee provided for the participation of all States Members of the United Nations and members of its specialized agencies at a high level, and of observers, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations from all regions of the world,

"Expressing its profound gratitude to the Government and people of Barbados for the hospitality extended to the participants of the Conference and for the excellent facilities, staff and services placed at their disposal,

"1. Approves the report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States; 2/

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

2/ Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. 94.I.18 and corrigenda).

"2. Endorses the Declaration of Barbados 3/ and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, 4/ as adopted at the Conference on 6 May 1994;

"3. Notes with satisfaction the summary of the high-level segment, which focused on the theme 'Forging partnerships for sustainable development'; 5/

"4. Requests the Secretary-General, through the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, to arrange for the public distribution of the Programme of Action in the appropriate manner and to ensure its wide dissemination;

"5. Calls upon all concerned to implement all commitments, agreements and recommendations reached at the Conference, by, among other measures, ensuring provision of the means of implementation under chapter XV of the Programme of Action;

"6. Notes with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on action taken by the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to implement the Programme of Action; 6/

"7. Urges Governments, organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to take the action necessary for effective follow-up to the Programme of Action;

"8. Notes with appreciation the feasibility studies conducted by the United Nations Development Programme on the small island developing States technical assistance programme 7/ and on the small island developing States information network; 8/

"9. Requests the United Nations Development Programme to continue to carry out its mandate as the lead agency in organizing the efforts of the United Nations system towards capacity-building at the local, national and regional levels and in fostering the United Nations collective thrust in

3/ Ibid., chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

4/ Ibid., annex II.

5/ Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. 94.I.18 and corrigenda), annex III.

6/ A/49/425 and Add.1.

7/ A/49/459.

8/ A/49/414.

support of the implementation of the Programme of Action, particularly through its network of country offices, and in that context:

"(a) To initiate the implementation of the technical assistance programme with the preparation of a directory, as specified in paragraph 106 of the Programme of Action, and undertake further consultation with small island developing States and other interested parties with a view to determining the most effective means of implementation of the technical assistance programme;

"(b) To coordinate further interregional and intraregional consultations between relevant technical experts of small island developing States and other interested States, which will further elaborate the information network and determine the most effective means of implementing it, taking into account the requirements of the technical assistance programme and the Programme of Action, with a view to commencing implementation before the fiftieth session of the General Assembly;

"10. Calls upon the international community to give its full support to efforts to put the technical assistance programme and the information network into operation;

"11. Requests the Commission on Sustainable Development, in the context of its multi-year thematic programme and its annual consideration of cross-sectoral issues:

"(a) To monitor and review, in a distinct and identifiable manner, the implementation of the provisions agreed upon in the Programme of Action;

"(b) To carry out in 1996 an initial review of the progress achieved and the steps taken to implement the Programme of Action;

"(c) To recommend, in the context of the overall review of Agenda 21 in 1997, specific modalities for a full review in 1999 of the Programme of Action, including the question of convening a second global conference, in accordance with chapter 17, section G, of Agenda 21;

"12. Requests the Secretary-General to enable the relevant regional commissions to support activities to coordinate the implementation of the outcome of the Conference at the regional and subregional levels, by, inter alia, providing the necessary autonomy and adequate resources to their subregional offices and operational centres, in accordance with paragraph 134 of the Programme of Action;

"13. Also requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development has a strengthened capacity to carry out, in accordance with its mandate, the research and analysis necessary to support the implementation of the Programme of Action;

"14. Further requests the Secretary-General to establish a clearly identifiable entity within the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the Secretariat, with the resources and number

of qualified and competent professional and support staff necessary to undertake its broad range of functions in support of the system-wide implementation of the Programme of Action, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 123 thereof;

"15. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fiftieth session, under the item entitled 'Environment and sustainable development', a sub-item entitled 'Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States';

"16. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session on action taken to implement the present resolution and on action taken by the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to implement the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and, in that regard, to invite those which have not already done so to consider the establishment of focal points and other similar mechanisms to enable them to respond effectively in the implementation of the Programme of Action."

3. At the same meeting, the representative of Germany made a statement on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union (see A/C.2/49/SR.29).

4. At the 33rd meeting, on 9 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Arjan P. Hamburger (Netherlands), drew the Committee's attention to a revised draft resolution (A/C.2/49/L.37/Rev.1), submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.37, as well as Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and informed the Committee of the results of the informal consultations held thereon.

5. The Committee had before it a statement of the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.37/Rev.1, submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (A/C.2/49/L.60).

6. Before action was taken on the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Algeria (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), the United States of America, Trinidad and Tobago and Germany (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union) (see A/C.2/49/SR.33).

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.37/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 9).

8. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Trinidad and Tobago and Belarus (see A/C.2/49/SR.33).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

9. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The General Assembly,

Recalling the report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in particular chapter 17, section G, of Agenda 21, 2/ relating to the sustainable development of small island developing States,

Recalling also its resolution 47/186 of 22 December 1992 on specific measures in favour of island developing countries,

Recalling in particular its resolutions 47/189 of 22 December 1992 and 48/193 of 21 December 1993,

Reaffirming that, because the development options of small island developing States are limited, there are special challenges to devising and implementing sustainable development plans, and that those States will be constrained in meeting such challenges without the cooperation of the international community,

Having considered the report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, 10/ which was held at Bridgetown from 25 April to 6 May 1994 and included a high-level segment on 5 and 6 May 1994,

Expressing its satisfaction that the Conference and its Preparatory Committee provided for the participation of all States Members of the United Nations and members of its specialized agencies at a high level, and also provided for the participation of observers, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations from all regions of the world,

Expressing its profound gratitude to the Government and people of Barbados for the hospitality extended to the participants of the Conference and for the excellent facilities, staff and services placed at their disposal,

1. Takes note with satisfaction of the report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States; 10/

2/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

10/ Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. 94.I.18 and corrigenda).

2. Endorses the Declaration of Barbados, 11/ and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, 12/ as adopted at the Conference on 6 May 1994;

3. Notes with satisfaction the summary of the high-level segment, 13/ which focused on the theme "Forging partnerships for sustainable development";

4. Calls upon Governments, as well as the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to implement all commitments reached and recommendations made at the Conference and to take the action necessary for effective follow-up to the Programme of Action, including ensuring the provision of the means of implementation under chapter XV thereof;

5. Notes with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on action taken by the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to implement the Programme of Action; 14/

6. Welcomes, in particular, the progress made by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Meteorological Organization in identifying focal points and other similar mechanisms to coordinate the action they are taking to implement the Programme of Action;

7. Welcomes the preparation by the United Nations Development Programme of studies on the feasibility of developing a technical assistance programme 15/ and an information network 16/ for the small island developing States;

8. Invites the United Nations Development Programme to continue to carry out its mandate as the lead agency in organizing the efforts of the United Nations system towards capacity-building at the local, national and regional levels, as set forth in Agenda 21, and in fostering the United Nations collective thrust in support of the implementation of the Programme of Action, particularly through its network of country offices;

11/ Ibid., chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

12/ Ibid., annex II.

13/ Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. 94.I.18 and corrigenda), annex III.

14/ A/49/425 and Add.1.

15/ A/49/459, annex.

16/ A/49/414, annex.

9. Also invites the United Nations Development Programme:

(a) To initiate the implementation of the technical assistance programme for small island developing States by preparing a directory, as specified in paragraph 106 of the Programme of Action, and undertake further consultation with small island developing States and other interested parties to determine the most effective means of implementation of the technical assistance programme;

(b) To coordinate further interregional and intraregional consultations between relevant technical experts of small island developing States and other interested States, agencies and relevant organizations to elaborate further the information network for small island developing States and determine the most effective means of implementing it, taking into account the requirements of the technical assistance programme and the Programme of Action;

10. Calls upon the international community to participate in the consideration of the feasibility studies through a process of consultation, with a view to supporting fully efforts to put the technical assistance programme and the information network into operation;

11. Requests the Commission on Sustainable Development:

(a) To make arrangements for monitoring and reviewing, in a distinct and identifiable manner, and in the context of its multi-year thematic programme and its annual consideration of cross-sectoral issues, the implementation of the provisions agreed upon in the Programme of Action;

(b) To carry out, in 1996, an initial review of the progress achieved and steps taken to implement the Programme of Action;

(c) To recommend, in the context of the overall review of Agenda 21 in 1997, specific modalities for a full review of the Programme of Action in 1999, including the question of convening a second global conference, in accordance with chapter 17, section G, of Agenda 21;

12. Requests the Secretary-General to enable the relevant regional commissions to support activities to coordinate the implementation of the outcome of the Conference at the regional and subregional levels by, inter alia, providing the necessary autonomy and adequate resources to their subregional offices and operational centres, in accordance with paragraph 134 of the Programme of Action, taking into account the decentralization process;

13. Also requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development has a strengthened capacity to carry out, in accordance with its mandate, the research and analysis necessary to complement the work of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the Secretariat with respect to the implementation of the Programme of Action;

14. Commends the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development for the efficient manner in which it serviced the preparations for and reporting on the Conference;

15. Further requests the Secretary-General to establish within the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development a clearly identifiable entity with the resources and number of qualified and competent professional and support staff that are necessary to undertake its broad range of functions in support of the system-wide implementation of the Programme of Action, relying on the most efficient and cost-effective use of resources, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 123 of the Programme of Action;

16. Requests the Secretary-General, through the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, to arrange for the wide and effective dissemination of the Programme of Action;

17. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fiftieth session, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", a sub-item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States";

18. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session on action taken to implement the present resolution and on action taken by the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to implement the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and in that regard also requests the Secretary-General to invite those organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system which have not already done so to consider the establishment of focal points and other similar mechanisms to enable them to respond effectively in the implementation of the Programme of Action.
